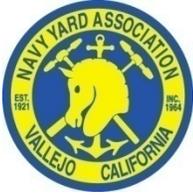


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



President.....Ralph E. McComb, Jr.
Vice President.....Jim Porter
Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan
Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong
Recording Secretary....Veronica Laird
Executive Secretary....Veronica Laird

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 849, Vallejo, CA 94590-0084
Street Address: Bldg. 535, Mare Island, Vallejo, CA 94592
Voice Mail and Fax: (707) 562-1812
Website Address: www.mareislandnva.com

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NYA Bulletin Board

If you wish to reach more than 400 of your fellow NYA members, this bulletin board is available for your use to post information. **Send an e-mail to Veronica Laird at vcullum@hotmail.com (use the subject line "NYA Bulletin Board")**

Shop 64 Breakfast Meeting

Rotating between Vallejo, Suisun, Fairfield, Vacaville, & Napa
Third Friday each month at 9:00am
POC: Jim Davis; (707) 226-1119

Shop 38 Breakfast

Denny's, 1701 E. Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville
Second Monday of even months at 9am
POC: Bill Cruz (916) 716-4661

Vallejo Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador St., Vallejo
Second Tuesday of each month at 1:15pm
POC: Robin Leong; robin_leong@netzero.net

Napa Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa
Last Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm
POC: Dotty Mufich; (707) 226-3642

Delta Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Denny's at Hwy 4/Somerville, Antioch
First Monday of each month at 12pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Sep)
POC: Bob Martin, (925) 458-1260

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Mare Island Museum Whitthorne Room
Last Monday of odd months at 9:00am
POC: Ken Wright (707) 557-4646

Nuclear Inspectors' Luncheon

The Sardine Can, Vallejo
First Tuesday of each month at 11:30am
POC: Lea Zajac; ldzajac@aol.com

Ocean Engineering Luncheon

Sports Bar inside the Marriott Hotel, Napa
Last Wednesday of each month at 11:30am
No POC at this time

Nuclear Engineering Luncheon

Locations vary each month
Each Friday at 11:30am
POC: Allen Green; aalgreen@napanet.net

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the end of summer.

While there are no plans for a reunion this year, our annual meeting in October is open to all members. This year's annual meeting is at 5:00 pm on Monday, October 14, 2019, at the Mare Island Museum. The meeting is one hour, and there will be coffee, water, and cookies available. In order to ensure adequate seating and refreshments, please call the NYA main number at (707) 562-1812 and let us know how many will be there. If no one answers, please leave a voice mail. We would appreciate your response by no later than October 5, 2019.

If you have not yet renewed your NYA membership, please take a moment and do that? We value your membership!

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

Following are some of the current goings-on around Mare Island:

Mare Island's Golf Course Purchased by Nimitz Group

In June 2019, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that the Nimitz Group purchased a 170-acre parcel of land on the south end of Mare Island within which the oldest military golf course west of the Mississippi River is located.

The Mare Island Golf Course—closed since February 2019—has fallen into disrepair and been targeted by vandals. The golf course will remain closed to the public while the Nimitz Group assesses the condition of the course and surrounding properties—expected to take until at least the end of 2019.

The previous owner had listed the course for sale at a price of \$4.75 million; however, the spokesperson for the Nimitz Group declined to state how much was paid for the 170-acre parcel on which the golf course lies. The Nimitz Group now plans to study various scenarios for incorporating the newly acquired parcel of land into their master plan, specifically, how the golf course property can be worked into that plan. Vallejo Mayor Bob Sampayan indicated that he was “very excited about this...It’s just the start of a new beginning for Mare Island.” The Mayor also said that he hopes Nimitz retains the golf course, which would benefit from additional amenities besides golf.

\$250,000 to be Provided Annually for Mare Island Cemetery Upkeep

On July 13, 2019, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that Representative Mike Thompson stated the House of Representatives approved an amended bill providing up to \$250,000 annually for the upkeep of the Mare Island Cemetery. The bill must now clear the Senate (Senate Bill S-127) before being sent to President Trump for approval. We all can help the approval process by contacting the Veterans Affairs Committee at their website: www.veterans.senate.gov/. Ranking member Senator Isakson is asking approval of S.127, so that the Mare Island Naval Cemetery will become a Veterans Affairs National Cemetery.

This is the first step toward the restoration of the oldest naval cemetery on the west coast. This funding is in addition to the US Military’s Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) work scheduled at the cemetery in 2020.



Examples of the Many Damaged Grave Markers at the Mare Island Naval Cemetery

Lennar Mare Island to Transfer 500 Acres to Nimitz Group

The Vallejo Times-Herald reported that on July 31, 2019, the Vallejo City Council approved the transfer and development rights for 500 acres of Mare Island properties. Although the purchase price paid by the Nimitz Group to Lennar was not disclosed, Vallejo’s Assistant City Manager, Will Morat, reported that the fiscal analysis of the deal included \$117 million for infrastructure improvements on the island, including roads, water, and storm/sewer lines. In addition to construction of other homes on this property, some other projects under consideration are a large film/media campus and a wine processing facility.

City of Vallejo at Odds with the Mare Island Preserve

In July 2019, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that the City of Vallejo appears to be trying to deprive city residents of the use of the beloved Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve. Under the leadership of Myrna Hayes, the Preserve has operated for 12 years without a formal agreement with the City; and for the past three years, camping has been allowed within the Preserve. According to Hayes, as of July 1, 2019, all campers were removed, and the Fire Department shut off the water to the Preserve.

Vallejo Mayor Bob Sampayan said that no one is considering doing anything that would destroy the Preserve. The Mayor’s understanding is

that once the potential fire hazard issues are resolved in the area, campers may again be allowed.

City of Vallejo spokesperson Joanna Altman said that city staff requested direction from the City Council to proceed with a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the property on which the Preserve is located. She added that; “The City welcomes the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve to submit a standalone proposal or partner with another legal entity.”

State of California Economic Development Representatives Visit Mare Island

In early August 2019, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that California’s top economic development director got a first-hand look at Vallejo’s “Industrial Cathedral” when Lenny Mendonca, Director of California Go-Biz, toured Factory_OS on Mare Island. Mendonca said that his visit was prompted by Mare Island being designated as an Opportunity Zone, created by Congress via the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.



A Work Day at the Factory_OS “Industrial Cathedral” (Former Mare Island Naval Shipyard Machine Shop)

Factory_OS continues to construct manufactured homes in the 250,000 square-foot former machine shop (Building 680) on Mare Island; and the business has created 220 jobs for workers from the local region.

In 2017, Google’s parent company, Alphabet, bought 300 units from Factory_OS as housing for their employees. In addition, contracts

are in place to build manufactured homes for several locations around the Bay Area, including Mountain View, Union City, Emeryville, and Oakland.



One Dozen Factory_OS Manufactured Home Units Ready for Shipment from Pintado Street Staging Area on Mare Island



Factory_OS Manufactured Homes Pilot Vehicle Preparing for Shipment to Union Street in Oakland, CA

USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN 658) Sail Monument Kick-Off

On Wednesday, August 21, 2019, the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) officially broke ground for the Save-Our-Sail (SOS) Project in Shipbuilding Ways 2, which is the location in which the VALLEJO was constructed in 1965.

The Vallejo City Manager joined local elected officials, members of the public, and several Mare Island residents and business representatives. During the ground-breaking ceremony, the Vallejo City Manager, Greg Nyghoff, presented the SOS project with a check for \$50,000 toward the construction of the historical monument. The Vice Mayor, Pippin Dew-Costa, congratulated the MIHPF for undertaking the creation of this tribute

to the to the City of Vallejo's and Mare Island's contribution to winning the Cold War.



MIHPF Vice President, Bruce Christensen and SOS Project members welcome attendees to groundbreaking ceremony in Building Ways #2



Several attendees pose in front of the VALLEJO Sail

Project Manager—and former VALLEJO crewmember—Bill Linné, reported that the monument is on schedule to be ready for the dedication ceremony on Friday, October 25, 2019, which is open to the public. Over the weekend of October 26-27, 2019, there will be a reunion for all former VALLEJO crewmembers and their families, which will be held at Mare Island.

Tax deductible donations may be made to the “Save our Sail” project by sending a check made payable to “MIHPF” to Mare Island Museum, 1100 Railroad Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94592.

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

Dental Plans Closing Down

In August, the National Association of Naval Employees (NAONE) Trust received notice from our dental plan administrators, Integrity

Administrators Inc., that two of our pre-paid dental providers are terminating their services this year. This was a very unwelcome surprise; yet, our steadily decreasing participation numbers make it an inescapable reality.

The NYA members enrolled in the affected dental offices were notified directly that NAONE dental plans at those offices would no longer be available after October 31, 2019.

Current Federal employees may only sign up for dental (and health) benefits during open season. This year's Open Season is November 11-December 9, 2019. In addition, there are a variety of plans available throughout the year. If you are in doubt about what plan might be best for you, take a close look at the existing NAONE Trust plan options (such as Blue Shield or Dentasure) and compare them to the plan options available to you through the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). You can find out more at:

<https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/dental-vision/>

In addition, I suggest you attend the NARFE Vallejo Chapter 16 meeting at 1:30 p.m., on November 12, 2019, at the Florence Douglas Center at 333 Amador Street in Vallejo. They usually have representatives from Kaiser Permanente, Aetna, GEHA, and Anthem Blue Cross.

My advice: please do NOT choose a plan based only on the monthly allotment, but choose one based on the allotment, *plus* what you will have to co-pay for the services you might need.

Have a spooky Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving, and have fun choosing what dental plan is best for your situation during open season.